Whereas the institution of American Slavery is anti-christian and anti-republican; and whereas its removal, in all human probability, will be hastened by a strong anti-slavery public opinion at the North; and whereas our various relations to the South, Political, Moral and Religious, are of a nature which compel us to act for or against the system, therefore the subscribers, residents of Leicester, with the hope of thereby advancing the sacred cause of Liberty, and with the fullest assurance that the blessings of Heaven will rest upon their efforts if they be faithful, unite themselves in a society to be governed by the following

Constitution:

Article 1st. This society shall be called the Leicester Anti-Slavery Association.

Article 2nd. This Association shall be unconnected with any existing Anti-Slavery organization.

Article 3d. The object of this Association shall be to aid in the great work of the abolition of Slavery in the United States. This it will aim to do by public Discussions and Lectures; by the circulation of publications of a character to effect that object; by petitioning the state and national Legislatures on the subject, and by every other means which are sanctioned by humanity and religion.

Article 4th. The officers of the Association shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall compose an Executive Committee; and a Town Anti-Slavery Committee of twenty persons, who shall be chosen annually by ballot at the first meeting of the Association in January, or, subsequently by adjournment, and shall hold their respective offices until others are chosen.

Article 5th. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, or in his absence one of the Vice Presidents, or in their absence, a President pro-tem.

Article 6th. The Secretary shall keep a true account of the doings of the Association; shall notify all meetings, and shall read at each meeting the record of the previous one.

Article 7th. The Treasurer shall collect all subscriptions and donations, hold all its funds and make payments according to the direction of the Executive Committee; he shall keep an account of the same and render a statement to accompany the annual report of the Executive Committee.

Article 8th. The duties of the Executive Commitee shall be to engage Lectures, provide places of meeting; present to the Association, for its approval, subjects for special consideration from time to time; purchase such publications as a majority of the Association shall approve of at a regular meeting and distribute them in due proportion to each member of the Town Anti-Slavery Committee; circulate subscription papers whenever the state of the Treasury shall render it necessary; inspect and audit the accounts of the Treasurer; call special meetings; prepare such Petitions as the Association may approve of; forward them to the Town Committee:—upon their return arrange and despatch them to the proper persons;—and present at each annual meeting a written Report of the doings of the Association, accompanied with such suggestions as they may think are called for.

Article 9th. The duties of the Town Anti-Slavery Committee shall be to distribute such publications in the Town, as they shall receive from the Executive Committee, by order of the Association; to circulate petitions having for their object the removal of Slavery, or to do any other Anti-slavery service which the association may require.—They will make returns, individually or collectively to the Executive Committee and look to that Committee for information as to the wishes of the Association.

Article 10. This Association shall have at least one public meeting a month for the consideration of any question, having reference to Slavery, which a majority of the Association shall have approved of; or to hear Lectures:—and at all meetings for discussion persons who are not members shall have the same right to speak as those who are.

Article 11th. The public meetings of the Association shall be held, as far as practicable, in different parts of the Town.

Article 12th. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Executive Committee upon the petition of any five members.

Article 13th. Any resident of the Town may become a member of this Association by subscribing to this Constitution.

Article 14th. In all the meetings of the Association, the voice of a majority of the present members shall be considered for the time the voice of the society:—provided always that the acquiescence of the minority shall not be construed into an *approval* or into a sharing of responsibility with the majority.

Article 15th. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at a previous meeting in writing.

~~NAMES.~~ ~~NAMES.~~

Officers of the Association,
elected March 25. 1844.

Samuel May — ... President.

John Nelson
William B. Olds } ... Vice-Presidents.

Abraham Fitts jr. .... Secretary. Josiah Clarke Jr. .... Treasurer

Town Anti-Slavery Committee.

C. Samuel W. Kent, George B. Upham, Eliza C. Clapp, Frances M. Hurd

E. Rufus Rockwood, ~~Lyman T. Clark~~ ~~Lyman T. Upham~~, Hannah W. Bradbury, Sarah Brummit, Sarah L. Bottomly

W. James P. Trask, Eliza Warren

N. Nathan Daniels.

N.E. Marshall P. Mead, Lucy Earle

N.W. Daniel Clapp, Catherine Elliott

S.E. Saml. H. Moore, Eliza Fitts

S. Daniel F. Draper

S.W. S. S. Larned.

Ms. B.1.6 v.1, p.50

Constitution of
Leicester Anti Slavery
Association -
with the
Officers Chosen
25 March, 1844